Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Larkin's Hundred is located off the north side of Mill Swamp Road nine-tenths of a mile west of Route Maryland 468 and one mile east of Route Maryland 2; three miles south of Edgewater.

Larkin's Hundred is a two-story brick house. The south side is laid in Flemish bond, the north, east and west walls in English. It was built by Thomas Larkin in 1704.

There are no porches. Four steps on the south side lead to an entrance door with transom centered between four windows, two on each side. Single brick lintels are straight on the first floor and arched on the second floor with a single brick stringer belt course between. Two massive interior chimneys are inset and stacked at the east and the west ends of the house. All the stacks are panelled with molded caps. The gable ends have the stringer belt course between a window near the outside ends of the walls at the first and second floor levels. The foundation has inset horizontal grills in small ground level windows with arched lintels.

The white clapboard kitchen wing at the west end adjoins the house. This was added in 1870 after the outer brick kitchen, judged at the time to be unsafe, was removed.

A noteworthy interior feature is a graceful stairway of American Walnut that divides at the landing so that all bedrooms have a direct access to the landing. A handsome painted cupboard is built into the panelling of the drawing room.

Nestled between knolls, which are themselves near the top of a ridge that runs down the middle of southern Anne Arundel County, the house is protected on its north and west sides and has an outlook over the rolling meadows to the south. At the time of building, it may have been possible to view the Chesapeake Bay a few miles to the east. The fact that Joseph Cowman, a mariner whose interests centered around Bay traffic, lived here during the eighteenth century, would seem to bear out this possibility.

The house is shaded by a magnificent Santo Domingo Mahogany Tree, known to have been a wedding present to the Thomas Larkins.

Informal gardens with flowers set into the grass are planted in the English country style.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Larkin's Hundred was built in 1704 by Thomas Larkin. a son of John Larkin of nearby Larkin's Hills. The present name derives from the original land grant, but the house was called the "Great House" for many years, indicating that its size was a rarity at such an early date. In 1708, the house was sold to the Reverend Joseph Colebatch, and for some years it served as the Rectory for All Hallows Church. In 1727, the Reverend Colebatch was summoned to England for consecration as Maryland's first bishop. However, the local authorities, engaged in bitter animosity against the Whig establishment, issued a court writ preventing his leaving the Colony. Thus Maryland was without a bishop until after the Revolution. In 1728, Joseph Cowman, a prominent mariner, and early member of the South River Club, bought the property. It remained in his family for three generations until acquired by William O'Hara. Until the mid-twentieth century, it was known as "O'Hara's Castle." Since then it has been called Larkin's Hundred.

The Larkin's Hundred house is today carefully maintained by its owners, Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Hardisty. The farm is actively grazed and cultivated.

Larkin's Hundred is an authentic example of a Maryland house built in the Transition style which represents, in Maryland, the holdover of the medieval or feudal manner of building while disclosing the trend in style toward the formal, symmetrical Georgian influence.

Because a slightly higher standard of living was possible by 1704 and because more sophisticated materials and methods of construction could be employed, the house has size and substance on the outside, serenity of proportion and fine panelling on the inside.

The house stands as built. There has never been need for radical alteration.

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Recorder: Mrs. E. W. Bridgman, Jr., Cedar Park, Cumberstone Road, Harwood, Maryland 20776

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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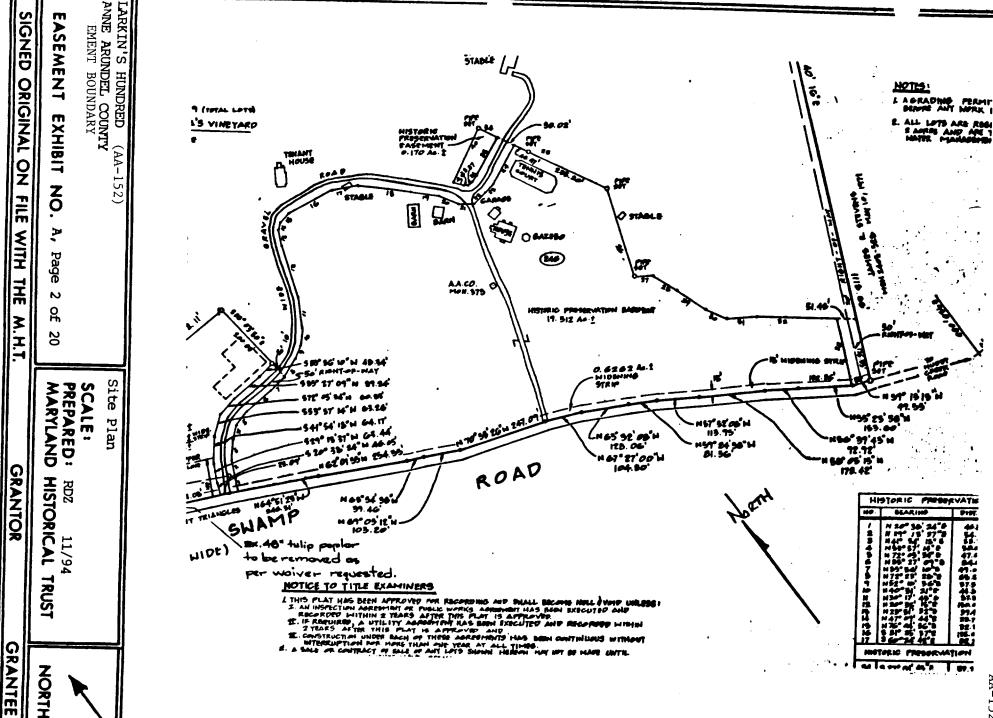
Larkin's Hundred

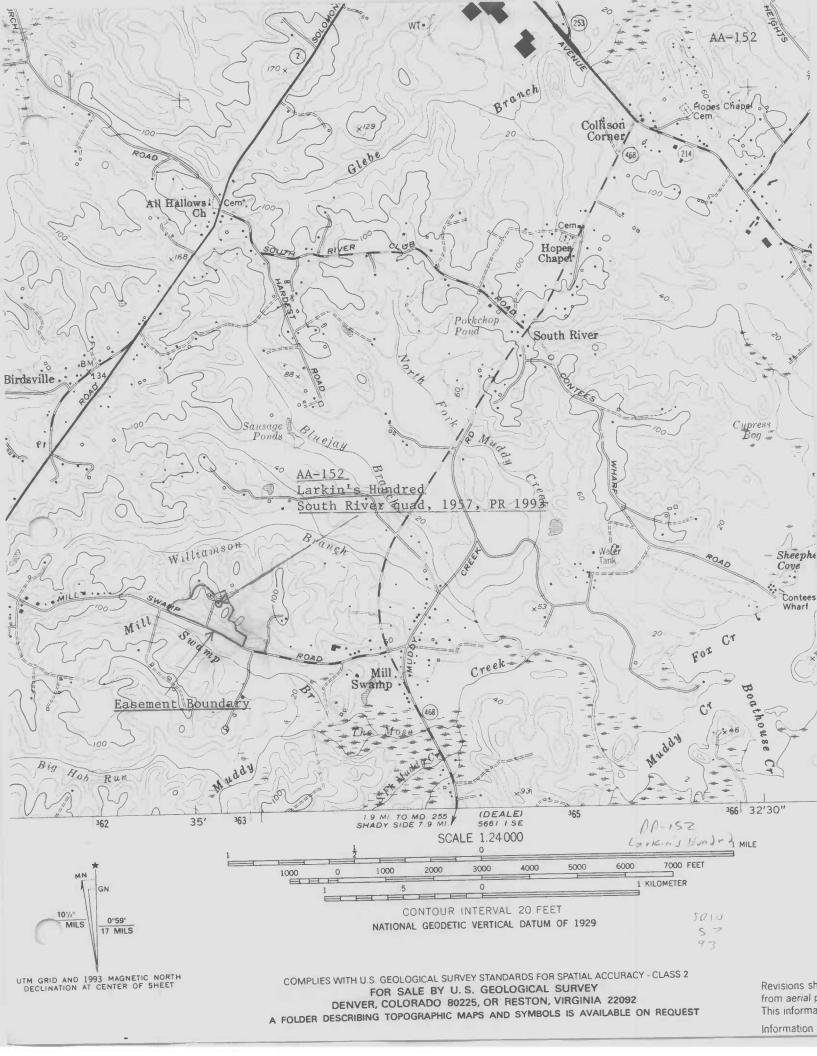
#5. LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Deed dated September 9, 1957. Recorded Liber 1150f16.

#9. REFERENCES

The Laurel News Leader, March 28, 1963, Laurel, Maryland Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage publication, 1969 edition, pp. 49, 52, published by Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland 21202





AA-152 Larkin's Hundred Mill Swamp Road Harwood Private

